

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESSB 5593

As Passed Senate, March 16, 1999

Title: An act relating to the Washington professional educator standards board.

Brief Description: Creating the Washington professional educator standards board.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Eide, Loveland, Rasmussen, B. Sheldon and Winsley; by request of Governor Locke).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Education: 1/25/99, 3/3/99 [DPS-WM, DNPS].

Ways & Means: 3/5/99, 3/8/99 [DPS (EDU)].

Passed Senate, 3/16/99, 32-13.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5593 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators McAuliffe, Chair; Eide, Vice Chair; Bauer, Brown, Finkbeiner, Goings, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen.

Minority Report: Do not pass substitute.

Signed by Senators Benton, Hochstatter, Sellar, Swecker and Zarelli.

Staff: Natalie Adams (786-7444)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5593 as recommended by Committee on Education be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Loveland, Chair; Bauer, Vice Chair; Brown, Vice Chair; Fairley, Fraser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, Rasmussen, B. Sheldon, Snyder, Spanel, Thibaudeau, Winsley and Wojahn.

Minority Report: Do not pass substitute.

Signed by Senators Honeyford, Roach, Rossi and Zarelli.

Staff: Bill Freund (786-7441)

Background: As part of its duties, the State Board of Education sets requirements for teachers, administrators, and educational staff associates in four major areas: preparation; assessment; certification; and standards of practice.

Summary of Bill: The Washington Professional Educator Standards Board is created as a self-governing board.

The Professional Educator Standards Board is comprised of 16 members representing all facets of the education profession. Members are appointed by the Governor and serve staggered terms of four years, not to exceed a total of eight years. Members may also be removed by the Governor.

Duties currently performed by the State Board of Education regarding teacher, educational staff associate and administrator preparation, assessment, certification and standards of practice are transferred to the new board.

The new board is held accountable through annual report requirements to the Governor and the Legislature.

The supplemental budget of the State Board of Education must be adjusted by an amount that reflects the reduction in its duties.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Sections 1, 2, and 3 take effect July 1, 1999. Sections 3 through 12 take effect January 1, 2000.

Testimony For: This bill would allow educators to regulate their own profession. Other professions and educators in other states that regulate their own profession claim that self-regulation has led to higher standards. Most states that provide self-regulating standards boards for educators are self-supporting.

Testimony Against: This bill is not necessary because the State Board of Education already performs these duties. No proof exists that the higher standards achieved by states allowing self-regulation are necessarily related to the professional standards boards in those states. Creating this board as a self-supporting board would result in larger certification fees for individuals interested in joining the profession.

Testified: Lorraine Wilson, Washington State School Directors Association (con); Susan Trimmingham, Washington Advisory Council for Professional Teaching Standards (con); Jennifer Wallace, Governor's office (pro); Wolfgang Opitz, OFM (pro); Jody Butler, Washington Education Association (pro); Joe Pope, Principals Association (pro); Steve Mullin, Washington Round Table (pro); Bob Maier, Washington Education Association (pro); Ted Andrews, emeritus citizen (con); Kathleen Anderson, State Board of Education (con); Larry Davis, State Board of Education (con); Scott Menard, Washington School Personnel Association (con); Molly Ringo, Washington Association of School Administrators (con); Bob Butts, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (con); Lillian Cady, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (con).